

## Message Text

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66-61

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 SS-20 AID-20 DRC-01

RSC-01 SSO-00 /064 W

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O 130132Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 336

UNCLAS HONG KONG 4084

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: CODEL O'NEILL

1. CHINESE PRESS CONVERGENCE CODEL LIGHT AND FACTUAL ON THIS LONG EASTER WEEKEND. LEFT WING PRESS DOES NOT COVER ARRIVAL. RADIO HONG KONG MAIN MORNING NEWSCAST BRIEFLY NOTED ARRIVAL , SAYING CODEL WOULD MEET WITH CONGEN OFFICERS.

2. SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, ONLY ENGLISH DAILY PUBLISHING TODAY, REPORTS ON INSIDE: "TWENTY-TWO U.S. CONGRESSMEN ARRIVED IN HONG KONG LAST NIGHT FOR A BRIEF TOURIST STOP-- BEFORE GOING OFF FOR POLITICAL TALKS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS IN TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA. (GRAF) THE DELEGATION, WHICH IS LARGE BY ANYONE'S STANDARDS, IS SEEN BY LOCAL OBSERVERS AS AN ATTEMPT BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO WIN LOBBY SUPPORT IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR CONTINUED BACKING FROM AMERICA". "THEY WILL STAY HERE FOR THREE DAYS ON WHAT IS SAID TO BE A "PRIVATE VISIT" BEFORE TRAVELLING ON TO TAIWAN AND KOREA. (GRAF) NOTHING POLITICAL, IT IS UNDERSTOOD, WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE AMERICAN POLITICIANS DURING THEIR BRIEF STAY IN HONG KONG, AND ITS SEEMS THAT THEY W XL HAVE A RELAXING "SHOPPING SPREE" AND SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF THE COLONY. (GRAF)

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BUT AT LEAST A FEW MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION .... ARE EXPECTED

TO MAKE THEIR OWN PRIVATE ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE 'CHINA SCENE' BEFORE LEAVING FOR SEOUL AND TAIPEI". " TAIWANESE SOURCES IN HK LAST NIGHT SAID THAT THE VISIT WAS ONE OF A NUMBER OF ROUTINE TRIPS PAID TO TAIWAN BY U.S. POLITICIANS, BUT MUCH IMPORTANCE WAS BEING PLACED ON THE SIZE OF THE DELEGATION--- COUPLED WITH TAIWAN'S CONSTANT VOICE THAT WANTS ITS POSITION IN THE WORLD TO CONTINUE, DESPITE THE EMERGENCE OF IUEKING AS THE NEW DIPLOMATIC AND BUSINESS TREND. (GRAF) SOME OF THE CONGRESSMEN WILL ALSO BE MAKING THEIR OWN PRIVATE VISITS TO SAIGON, TO ASSESS THE SITUATION THEREINCE THE OFFICIAL CEASEFIRE DECLARATION. THEY PROBABLY WILL INVESTIGATE THE INCREASING NUMBER OF BREACHES OF THE PEACE FORMULA".

3. LAST WEEK'S FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW (DATED APRIL 8) CARRIED BRIEF ITEM ON CODEL IN THEIR "INTELLIGENCE" FEATURE PAGE (MODELLED AFTER NEWSWEEKS PERISCOPE): "TAIWAN'S INFLUENTIAL FRIENDS. A 22- MEMBER DELEGATION OF AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN ... WILL VISIT TAIWAN.

AS GUESTS OF THE NATIONALIST CHINESE GOVERNMENT. DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE NATIONALISTS HAVE BEEN STEPPING UP EFFORTS TO MAKE FRIENDS AMONG US SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN. THE IDEA IS TO DEVELOP ENOUGH SUPPORT IN THE US LEGISLATIVE BRANCH TO THWART ANY PLAN TO ESTABLISH FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING AT TAIWAN'S EXPENSE". END ITEM  
IZENBERG

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